

Adoption and Out of Home Care Committee Meeting
September 18, 2013

Present: Maria McDermott, Tiffany Meredith, Wendy Rewolinski, Allison McMorro, Colleen Ellingson, Mary Sowinski, Arlene Happach.

Discussion on permanency & data analysis needs

What do we know and what can we know regarding permanency

Are there specific factors that impact placement stability? (Relative vs. non-relative placements. Are there periods of time that are more stable than others?)

Looking at report for children under age four as the target group.

- Looked at kids with less than 2 placements.
- No definite trends—kids all had different stories.
- Need to look at case notes to determine why kids are moved
- Relative placements usually more stable.
- Wisacwis has not caught up with licensing changes--wisacwis isn't specific regarding reasons for moving.

Can we cross reference with other reliable data to get more information –by category of kids, wrap vs. non-wrap kids?

Need to look at case notes to determine why kids are moved...no check box-type answers.

Re-entry data is easier to get than information on stability issues.

Hard to have all information up front—especially for first placement.

Problem with not having information regarding special needs on the front end.

What happens after the initial placement that impacts stability?

Need to have medical evaluation before the second placement.

Not sure why stability issues are such a problem for children under the age of four.

Do other states have other/different protocol for children to help get a good placement?

Parents may be causing disruptive placements.

Agencies staff cases internally before ending placement.

Exit staffings are done before ending placement.

Look at situation to determine what might be done.

Agencies track disruptive placements.

Going forward, what can we do? Are there a group of children that move disproportionately? What age range of children jumps out? Can we look at what is going on with placements that are going well?

Do we want to look at 3-5 placements or target less than three to try to prevent going to third placement.

Can we concentrate on preventing kids from moving to a third placement? Not sure what else we can do. We already have things in place to try to prevent moves.

What process might we use to try to prevent third time moves?

Look at small group of disruptions.

What else could we do systemically?

Are there systemic changes we need to make?

Are there any ways to identify placements that are disproportionately disruptive?

So far there does not appear to be a pattern.

We need to develop a process for looking at these kids.

Going forward, this will be a matter of information collection.

This problem may be a child welfare discussion.

Do other states have protocols? Citizen review panels might have information.

We should look at states that rank higher than us in stability percentages to see how they are handling the problem.

Suggestion was made that the group look at some cases during the next meeting (in December).

Look at systemic issues during a given month.

Would need to gather information ahead of time.

At the December meeting we could look at October/November with 0-4 year old children with greater than three placements. CSSW and IFS will provide cases.

Re-entry numbers are going down and reunification are moving up.

Re-entry numbers have been going down since post permanency reunification help services have been implemented.

Does trial reunification make a difference? Not enough data to look at because the process is so new.

Adoption disruptions

Adoption dissolutions rarely happen.

We have no way to determine how often adoption disruptions actually happen.

The DA's office is looking at numbers for youth twelve and older.

What do we do about kids ten years and older?

Would like to look at subsidies after kids are adopted.

Next meeting will be December 11, 2013.